

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A program-related information providing apparatus which includes storage means for storing program information, which serves as attribute information of a program, and a program table, and which sends the program information and the program table to a terminal device via a network in response to a request from said terminal device, said program-related information providing apparatus comprising:

search means for searching for the program information stored in said storage means in response to a program-reserve-record setting request for a program in the program table from said terminal device;

first program-reserve-record setting script generation means for generating a first program-reserve-record setting script, which serves as a control command for recording the program in the program table on a recording medium, based on the program information searched by said search means;

program-related information address display script generation means for generating a program-related information address display script including address information which indicates an address on said network of program-related information of the program in the program table and from which the program-related information is accessible, and also including display time information

specifying a display time of the address information, said program-related information address display script serving as a control command for displaying the address information on said terminal device;

second program-reserve-record setting script generation means for generating a second program-reserve-record setting script by attaching said program-related information address display script to said first program-reserve-record setting script; and

transmission means for transmitting said second program-reserve-record setting script generated by said second program-reserve-record setting script generation means to said terminal device.

2. A program-related information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said program-related information address display script generation means uses, as the display time information of the program-related information address display script, display start time information specifying a display timing of the address information relative to a program broadcast start time, and display period information specifying a period for which the address information is displayed.

3. A program-related information providing method for

use in a program-related information providing apparatus which includes storage means for storing program information, which serves as attribute information of a program, and a program table, and which sends the program information and the program table to a terminal device via a network in response to a request from said terminal device, said program-related information providing method comprising the steps of:

searching for the program information stored in said storage means in response to a program-reserve-record setting request for a program in the program table from said terminal device;

generating a first program-reserve-record setting script, which serves as a control command for recording the program in the program table on a recording medium, based on the searched program information;

generating a program-related information address display script including address information which indicates an address on said network of program-related information of the program in the program table and from which the program-related information is accessible, and also including display time information specifying a display time of the address information, said program-related information address display script serving as a control command for displaying the address information on said terminal device;

generating a second program-reserve-record setting script by attaching said program-related information address display script to said first program-reserve-record setting script; and

transmitting said second program-reserve-record setting script to said terminal device.

4. A program-related information providing method according to claim 3, wherein as the display time information of the program-related information address display script, display start time information specifying a display timing of the address information relative to a program broadcast start time, and display period information specifying a period for which the address information is displayed are used.

5. A program-related information providing apparatus which includes storage means for storing program information, which serves as attribute information of a program, and a program table, and which sends the program information and the program table to a first terminal device via a network in response to a request from said first terminal device, said program-related information providing apparatus comprising:

search means for searching for the program information

stored in said storage means in response to a program-reserve-record setting request for a program in the program table from said first terminal device;

first program-reserve-record setting script generation means for generating a first program-reserve-record setting script, which serves as a control command for recording the program in the program table on a recording medium, based on the program information searched by said search means;

program-related information address display script generation means for generating a program-related information address display script including address information which indicates an address on said network of program-related information of the program in the program table and from which the program-related information is accessible, and also including display time information specifying a display time of the address information, said program-related information address display script serving as a control command for displaying the address information on a second terminal device;

second program-reserve-record setting script generation means for generating a second program-reserve-record setting script by attaching said program-related information address display script to said first program-reserve-record setting script; and

transmission means for transmitting said second

program-reserve-record setting script generated by said second program-reserve-record setting script generation means to said second terminal device.

6. A program-related information providing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said program-related information address display script generation means uses, as the display time information of the program-related information address display script, display start time information specifying a display timing of the address information relative to a program broadcast start time, and display period information specifying a period for which the address information is displayed.

7. A program-related information providing method for use in a program-related information providing apparatus which includes storage means for storing program information, which serves as attribute information of a program, and a program table, and which sends the program information and the program table to a first terminal device via a network in response to a request from said first terminal device, said program-related information providing method comprising the steps of:

searching for the program information stored in said storage means in response to a program-reserve-record

setting request for a program in the program table from said first terminal device;

generating a first program-reserve-record setting script, which serves as a control command for recording the program in the program table on a recording medium, based on the searched program information;

generating a program-related information address display script including address information which indicates an address on said network of program-related information of the program in the program table and from which the program-related information is accessible, and also including display time information specifying a display time of the address information, said program-related information address display script serving as a control command for displaying the address information on a second terminal device;

generating a second program-reserve-record setting script by attaching said program-related information address display script to said first program-reserve-record setting script; and

transmitting said second program-reserve-record setting script to said second terminal device.

8. A program-related information providing method according to claim 7, wherein as the display time

information of the program-related information address display script, display start time information specifying a display timing of the address information relative to a program broadcast start time, and display period information specifying a period for which the address information is displayed are used.

9. A program-related information providing system comprising a program-related information providing apparatus and a terminal device connected to each other via a network, said program-related information providing apparatus including storage means for storing program information, which serves as attribute information of a program, and a program table, and said program-related information providing apparatus sending the program information and the program table to said terminal device in response to a request from said terminal device, said terminal device making a reserve-record setting request for a program in the program table sent from said program-related information providing apparatus, and said terminal device including recording means for recording the requested program on a recording medium and playback means for playing back the program recorded on said recording medium,

said program-related information providing apparatus comprising:



search means for searching for the program information stored in said storage means in response to the program-reserve-record setting request sent from said terminal device;

first program-reserve-record setting script generation means for generating a first program-reserve-record setting script, which serves as a control command for recording the program in the program table on said recording medium, based on the program information searched by said search means;

program-related information address display script generation means for generating a program-related information address display script, which serves as a control command to said terminal device, including address information which indicates an address on said network of program-related information of the program in the program table, and also including display time information specifying a display time of the address information;

second program-reserve-record setting script generation means for generating a second program-reserve-record setting script by attaching said program-related information address display script to said first program-reserve-record setting script; and

transmission means for transmitting said second program-reserve-record setting script generated by said

second program-reserve-record setting script generation means to said terminal device,

said terminal device comprising:

first receiving means for receiving said second program-reserve-record setting script transmitted from said transmission means of said program-related information providing apparatus;

detection means for detecting said first program-reserve-record-setting script from said second program-reserve-record setting script received by said first receiving means;

second receiving means for receiving at a predetermined time the program specified by said first program-reserve-record setting script detected by said detection means;

signal conversion means for converting said first program-reserve-record setting script detected by said detection means into a program-reserve-record setting control signal;

control means for controlling said recording means according to the program-reserve-record setting control signal converted by said signal conversion means to record on said recording medium the program received by said second receiving means and said program-related information address display script of said program attached to said second

program-reserve-record setting script received by said first receiving means; and

display means for displaying the program played back by said playback means,

wherein said control means of said terminal device controls said playback means to play back the program recorded on said recording medium in response to a playback request, and reads the address information and the display time information from said program-related information address display script recorded on said recording medium so as to control said display means to display or not to display the read address information based on the display time information.

10. A program-related information providing system according to claim 9, wherein:

said program-related information address display script generation means of said program-related information providing apparatus uses, as the display time information of the program-related information address display script, display start time information specifying a display timing of the address information relative to a program broadcast start time, and display period information specifying a period for which the address information is displayed; and

said control means of said terminal device reads the

display start time information and the display period information as the display time information, and controls said display means of said terminal device to display the read address information based on the display start time information, and to discontinue displaying the address information based on the display period information.

11. A program-related information providing system according to claim 9, wherein said program-related information providing apparatus comprises billing means for charging a fee to an address information provider which provides the address information to said terminal device.

12. A program-related information providing system according to claim 11, wherein said program-related information address display script generation means of said program-related information providing apparatus generates the program-related information display script so that the address information for which a higher fee has been paid is preferentially displayed on said display means of said terminal device according to the fee charged by said billing means.

13. A program-related information providing method for use in a program-related information providing system which

comprises a program-related information providing apparatus and a terminal device connected to each other via a network, said program-related information providing apparatus including storage means for storing program information, which serves as attribute information of a program, and a program table, and said program-related information providing apparatus sending the program information and the program table to said terminal device in response to a request from said terminal device, said terminal device making a reserve-record setting request for a program in the program table sent from said program-related information providing apparatus, and said terminal device including recording means for recording the requested program on a recording medium and playback means for playing back the program recorded on said recording medium, said program-related information providing method comprising the steps of:

searching for the program information stored in said storage means by said program-related information providing apparatus in response to the program-reserve-record setting request sent from said terminal device;

generating by said program-related information providing apparatus a first program-reserve-record setting script, which serves as a control command for instructing said recording means to record the program in the program

table on said recording medium, based on the searched program information;

generating by said program-related information providing apparatus a program-related information address display script, which serves as a control command to said terminal device, including address information indicating an address on said network of program-related information of the program in the program table, and also including display time information specifying a display time of the address information;

generating a second program-reserve-record setting script by said program-related information providing apparatus by attaching said program-related information address display script to said first program-reserve-record setting script;

transmitting said second program-reserve-record setting script from said program-related information providing apparatus to said terminal device;

receiving by said terminal device said second program-reserve-record setting script transmitted from said program-related information providing apparatus;

detecting by said terminal device said first program-reserve-record-setting script from the received second program-reserve-record setting script;

receiving at a predetermined time by said terminal

device the program specified by the detected first program-reserve-record setting script;

converting the detected first program-reserve-record setting script into a program-reserve-record setting control signal by said terminal device;

controlling said recording means by said terminal device according to the converted program-reserve-record setting control signal to record on said recording medium the received program and said program-related information address display script of said program attached to said second program-reserve-record setting script; and

controlling by said terminal device said playback means to play back the program recorded on said recording medium in response to a playback request, and reading the address information and the display time information from said program-related information address display script recorded on said recording medium so as to control display means of said terminal device to display or not to display the read address information based on the display time information.

14. A program-related information providing method according to claim 13, wherein:

said program-related information providing apparatus uses, as the display time information of the program-related information address display script, display start time

information specifying a display timing of the address information relative to a program broadcast start time, and display period information specifying a period for which the address information is displayed; and

said terminal device reads the display start time information and the display period information as the display time information, and controls said display means of said terminal device to display the read address information based on the display start time information, and to discontinue displaying the address information based on the display period information.

15. A program-related information providing method according to claim 13, wherein said program-related information providing apparatus charges a fee to an address information provider which provides the address information to said terminal device.

16. A program-related information providing method according to claim 15, wherein said program-related information providing apparatus generates the program-related information address display script so that the address information for which a higher fee has been paid is preferentially displayed on said terminal device according to the charged fee.



17. A program-related information providing system comprising a program-related information providing apparatus, a first terminal device, and a second terminal device connected to each other via a network, said program-related information providing apparatus including storage means for storing program information, which serves as attribute information of a program, and a program table, and said program-related information providing apparatus sending the program information and the program table to said first terminal device in response to a request from said first terminal device, said first terminal device making a reserve-record setting request for a program in the program table sent from said program-related information providing apparatus, and said second terminal device including recording means for recording the requested program on a recording medium and playback means for playing back the program recorded on said recording medium,

said program-related information providing apparatus comprising:

search means for searching for the program information stored in said storage means in response to the program-reserve-record setting request sent from said first terminal device;

first program-reserve-record setting script

generation means for generating a first program-reserve-record setting script, which serves as a control command for recording the program in the program table on said recording medium based on the program information searched by said search means;

program-related information address display script generation means for generating a program-related information address display script, which serves as a control command to said second terminal, including address information which indicates an address on said network of program-related information of the program in the program table, and also including display time information specifying a display time of the address information;

second program-reserve-record setting script generation means for generating a second program-reserve-record setting script by attaching said program-related information address display script to said first program-reserve-record setting script; and

transmission means for transmitting said second program-reserve-record setting script generated by said second program-reserve-record setting script generation means to said second terminal device,

said second terminal device comprising:

first receiving means for receiving said second program-reserve-record setting script transmitted from said

transmission means of said program-related information providing apparatus;

detection means for detecting said first program-reserve-record-setting script from said second program-reserve-record setting script received by said first receiving means;

second receiving means for receiving at a predetermined time the program specified by said first program-reserve-record setting script detected by said detection means;

signal conversion means for converting said first program-reserve-record setting script detected by said detection means into a program-reserve-record setting control signal;

control means for controlling said recording means according to the program-reserve-record setting control signal converted by said signal conversion means to record on said recording medium the program received by said second receiving means and said program-related information address display script of said program attached to said second program-reserve-record setting script received by said first receiving means; and

display means for displaying the program played back by said playback means,

wherein said control means of said second terminal

device controls said playback means to play back the program recorded on said recording medium in response to a playback request, and controls said display means to display or not to display the address information included in said program-related information address display script recorded on said recording medium based on the display time information.

18. A program-related information providing system according to claim 17, wherein:

said program-related information address display script generation means of said program-related information providing apparatus uses, as the display time information of the program-related information address display script, display start time information specifying a display timing of the address information relative to a program broadcast start time, and display period information specifying a period for which the address information is displayed; and

said control means of said second terminal device reads the display start time information and the display period information as the display time information, and controls said display means of said second terminal device to display the read address information based on the display start time information, and to discontinue displaying the address information based on the display period information.

19. A program-related information providing system according to claim 17, wherein said program-related information providing apparatus comprises billing means for charging a fee to an address information provider which provides the address information to said second terminal device.

20. A program-related information providing system according to claim 19, wherein said program-related information address display script generation means of said program-related information providing apparatus generates the program-related information display script so that the address information for which a higher fee has been paid is preferentially displayed on said display means of said second terminal device according to the fee charged by said billing means.

21. A program-related information providing method for use in a program-related information providing system which comprises a program-related information providing apparatus, a first terminal device, and a second terminal device connected to each other via a network, said program-related information providing apparatus including storage means for storing program information, which serves as attribute information of a program, and a program table, and said

program-related information providing apparatus sending the program information and the program table to said first terminal device in response to a request from said first terminal device, said first terminal device making a reserve-record setting request for a program in the program table sent from said program-related information providing apparatus, and said second terminal device including recording means for recording the requested program on a recording medium and playback means for playing back the program recorded on said recording medium, said program-related information providing method comprising the steps of:

searching for the program information stored in said storage means by said program-related information providing apparatus in response to the program-reserve-record setting request sent from said first terminal device;

generating by said program-related information providing apparatus a first program-reserve-record setting script, which serves as a control command for recording the program in the program table on said recording medium based on the searched program information;

generating by said program-related information providing apparatus a program-related information address display script, which serves as a control command to said second terminal device, including address information

indicating an address on said network of program-related information of the program in the program table, and also including display time information specifying a display time of the address information;

generating a second program-reserve-record setting script by said program-related information providing apparatus by attaching said program-related information address display script to said first program-reserve-record setting script;

transmitting said second program-reserve-record setting script from said program-related information providing apparatus to said second terminal device;

receiving by said second terminal device said second program-reserve-record setting script transmitted from said program-related information providing apparatus;

detecting by said second terminal device said first program-reserve-record setting script from the received second program-reserve-record setting script;

receiving at a predetermined time by said second terminal device the program specified by the detected first program-reserve-record setting script;

converting the detected first program-reserve-record setting script into a program-reserve-record setting control signal by said second terminal device;

controlling said recording means by said second

terminal device according to the converted program-reserve-record setting control signal to record on said recording medium the received program and said program-related information address display script of said program attached to the received second program-reserve-record setting script; and

controlling by said second terminal device said playback means to play back the program recorded on said recording medium in response to a playback request, and controlling display means of said second terminal device to display or not to display the address information included in said program-related information address display script recorded on said recording medium based on the display time information.

22. A program-related information providing method according to claim 21, wherein:

said program-related information providing apparatus uses, as the display time information of the program-related information address display script, display start time information specifying a display timing of the address information relative to a program broadcast start time, and display period information specifying a period for which the address information is displayed; and

said second terminal device reads the display start



time information and the display period information as the display time information, and controls said display means of said second terminal device to display the read address information based on the display start time information, and to discontinue displaying the address information based on the display period information.

23. A program-related information providing method according to claim 21, wherein said program-related information providing apparatus charges a fee to an address information provider which provides the address information to said second terminal device.

24. A program-related information providing method according to claim 23, wherein said program-related information providing apparatus generates the program-related information address display script so that the address information for which a higher fee has been paid is preferentially displayed on said second terminal device according to the fee charged by said billing means.

25. A program-related information providing system comprising a program-related information providing apparatus, a terminal device, and a recording/playback device connected to each other via a network, said program-related

information providing apparatus including storage means for storing program information, which serves as attribute information of a program, and a program table, and said program-related information providing apparatus sending the program information and the program table to said terminal device in response to a request from said terminal device, said terminal device making a reserve-record setting request for a program in the program table sent from said program-related information providing apparatus, and said recording/playback device including recording means for recording the requested program on a recording medium and playback means for playing back the program recorded on said recording medium,

said program-related information providing apparatus comprising:

search means for searching for the program information stored in said storage means in response to the program-reserve-record setting request sent from said terminal device;

first program-reserve-record setting script generation means for generating a first program-reserve-record setting script, which serves as a control command for instructing said recording/playback device to record the program in the program table on said recording medium based on the program information searched by said search means;

program-related information address display script generation means for generating a program-related information address display script, which serves as a control command to said terminal device, including address information indicating an address on said network of program-related information of the program in the program table, and also including display time information specifying a display time of the address information;

second program-reserve-record setting script generation means for generating a second program-reserve-record setting script by attaching said program-related information address display script to said first program-reserve-record setting script; and

transmission means for transmitting said second program-reserve-record setting script generated by said second program-reserve-record setting script generation means to said terminal device,

said terminal device comprising:

first receiving means for receiving said second program-reserve-record setting script transmitted from said transmission means of said program-related information providing apparatus;

detection means for detecting said first program-reserve-record-setting script from said second program-reserve-record setting script received by said first

receiving means;

second receiving means for receiving at a predetermined time the program specified by said first program-reserve-record setting script detected by said detection means;

signal conversion means for converting said first program-reserve-record setting script detected by said detection means into a program-reserve-record setting control signal;

control means for controlling said recording means of said recording/playback device according to the program-reserve-record setting control signal converted by said signal conversion means to record on said recording medium the program received by said second receiving means and said program-related information address display script of said program attached to said second program-reserve-record setting script received by said first receiving means; and

display means for displaying the program played back by said playback means,

wherein said control means of said terminal device controls said playback means of said recording/playback device to play back the program recorded on said recording medium in response to a playback request, and also reads the address information and the display time information from said program-related-information address display script

recorded on said recording medium so as to control said display means to display or not to display the read address information based on the display time information.

26. A program-related information providing system according to claim 25, wherein:

said program-related information address display script generation means of said program-related information providing apparatus uses, as the display time information of the program-related information address display script, display start time information specifying a display timing of the address information relative to a program broadcast start time, and display period information specifying a period for which the address information is displayed; and

said control means of said terminal device reads the display start time information and the display period information as the display time information, and controls said display means of said terminal device to display the read address information based on the display start time information, and to discontinue displaying the address information based on the display period information.

27. A program-related information providing system according to claim 25, wherein said program-related information providing apparatus comprises billing means for

charging a fee to an address information provider which provides the address information to said terminal device.

28. A program-related information providing system according to claim 27, wherein said program-related information address display script generation means of said program-related information providing apparatus generates the program-related information display script so that the address information for which a higher fee has been paid is preferentially displayed on said display means of said terminal device according to the fee charged by said billing means.

29. A program-related information providing method for use in a program-related information providing system which comprises a program-related information providing apparatus, a terminal device, and a recording/playback device connected to each other via a network, said program-related information providing apparatus including storage means for storing program information, which serves as attribute information of a program, and a program table, and said program-related information providing apparatus sending the program information and the program table to said terminal device in response to a request from said terminal device, said terminal device making a reserve-record setting request

for a program in the program table sent from said program-related information providing apparatus, and said recording/playback device including recording means for recording the requested program on a recording medium and playback means for playing back the program recorded on said recording medium, said program-related information providing method comprising the steps of:

searching for the program information stored in said storage means by said program-related information providing apparatus in response to the program-reserve-record setting request sent from said terminal device;

generating by said program-related information providing apparatus a first program-reserve-record setting script, which serves as a control command for recording the program in the program table on said recording medium, based on the searched program information;

generating by said program-related information providing apparatus a program-related information address display script, which serves as a control command to said terminal device, including address information indicating an address on said network of program-related information of the program in the program table, and also including display time information specifying a display time of the address information;

generating a second program-reserve-record setting

script by said program-related information providing apparatus by attaching said program-related information address display script to said first program-reserve-record setting script;

transmitting said second program-reserve-record setting script from said program-related information providing apparatus to said terminal device;

receiving by said terminal device said second program-reserve-record setting script transmitted from said program-related information providing apparatus;

detecting by said terminal device said first program-reserve-record-setting script from the received second program-reserve-record setting script;

receiving at a predetermined time by said terminal device the program specified by the detected first program-reserve-record setting script;

converting the detected first program-reserve-record setting script into a program-reserve-record setting control signal by said terminal device;

controlling said recording means by said terminal device according to the converted program-reserve-record setting control signal to record on said recording medium the received program and said program-related information address display script of said program attached to the received second program-reserve-record setting script; and



controlling by said terminal device said playback means of said recording/playback device to play back the program recorded on said recording medium in response to a playback request, and also reading the address information and the display time information from said program-related-information address display script recorded on said recording medium so as to control display means of said terminal device to display or not to display the read address information based on the display time information.

30. A program-related information providing method according to claim 29, wherein:

said program-related information providing apparatus uses, as the display time information of the program-related information address display script, display start time information specifying a display timing of the address information relative to a program broadcast start time, and display period information specifying a period for which the address information is displayed; and

said terminal device reads the display start time information and the display period information as the display time information, and controls said display means of said terminal device to display the read address information based on the display start time information, and to discontinue displaying the address information based on the

display period information.

31. A program-related information providing method according to claim 29, wherein said program-related information providing apparatus comprises billing means for charging a fee to an address information provider which provides the address information to said terminal device.

32. A program-related information providing method according to claim 31, wherein said program-related information providing apparatus generates the program-related information address display script so that the address information for which a higher fee has been paid is preferentially displayed on said terminal device according to the fee charged by said billing means.

33. A program-related information providing system comprising a program-related information providing apparatus, a first terminal device, a second terminal device, and a recording/playback device connected to each other via a network, said program-related information providing apparatus including storage means for storing program information, which serves as attribute information of a program, and a program table, and said program-related information providing apparatus sending the program

information and the program table to said first terminal device in response to a request from said first terminal device, said second terminal device making a reserve-record setting request for a program in the program table sent from said program-related information providing apparatus, and said recording/playback device including recording means for recording the requested program on a recording medium and playback means for playing back the program recorded on said recording medium,

said program-related information providing apparatus comprising:

search means for searching for the program information stored in said storage means in response to the program-reserve-record setting request sent from said second terminal device;

first program-reserve-record setting script generation means for generating a first program-reserve-record setting script, which serves as a control command for instructing said recording/playback device to record the program in the program table on said recording medium, based on the program information searched by said search means;

program-related information address display script generation means for generating a program-related information address display script, which serves as a control command to said second terminal device, including

address information indicating an address on said network of program-related information of the program in the program table, and also including display time information specifying a display time of the address information;

second program-reserve-record setting script generation means for generating a second program-reserve-record setting script by attaching said program-related information address display script to said first program-reserve-record setting script; and

transmission means for transmitting said second program-reserve-record setting script generated by said second program-reserve-record setting script generation means to said second terminal device,

said second terminal device comprising:

first receiving means for receiving said second program-reserve-record setting script transmitted from said transmission means of said program-related information providing apparatus;

detection means for detecting said first program-reserve-record-setting script from said second program-reserve-record setting script received by said first receiving means;

second receiving means for receiving at a predetermined time the program specified by said first program-reserve-record setting script detected by said

detection means;

signal conversion means for converting said first program-reserve-record setting script detected by said detection means into a program-reserve-record setting control signal;

control means for controlling said recording means of said recording/playback device according to the program-reserve-record setting control signal converted by said signal conversion means to record on said recording medium the program received by said second receiving means and said program-related information address display script of said program attached to said second program-reserve-record setting script received by said first receiving means; and

display means for displaying the program played back by said playback means,

wherein said control means of said second terminal device controls said playback means of said recording/playback device to play back the program recorded on said recording medium in response to a playback request, and also reads the address information and the display time information from said program-related-information address display script recorded on said recording medium so as to control said display means of said second terminal device to display or not to display the read address information based on the display time information.

34. A program-related information providing system according to claim 33, wherein:

said program-related information address display script generation means of said program-related information providing apparatus uses, as the display time information of the program-related information address display script, display start time information specifying a display timing of the address information relative to a program broadcast start time, and display period information specifying a period for which the address information is displayed; and

said control means of said second terminal device reads the display start time information and the display period information as the display time information, and controls said display means of said second terminal device to display the read address information based on the display start time information, and to discontinue displaying the address information based on the display period information.

35. A program-related information providing system according to claim 33, wherein said program-related information providing apparatus comprises billing means for charging a fee to an address information provider which provides the address information to said second terminal device.

36. A program-related information providing system according to claim 35, wherein said program-related information address display script generation means of said program-related information providing apparatus generates the program-related information display script so that the address information for which a higher fee has been paid is preferentially displayed on said display means of said second terminal device according to the fee charged by said billing means.

37. A program-related information providing method for use in a program-related information providing system which comprises a program-related information providing apparatus, a first terminal device, a second terminal device, and a recording/playback device connected to each other via a network, said program-related information providing apparatus including storage means for storing program information, which serves as attribute information of a program, and a program table, and said program-related information providing apparatus sending the program information and the program table to said first terminal device in response to a request from said first terminal device, said second terminal device making a reserve-record setting request for a program in the program table sent from

said program-related information providing apparatus, and said recording/playback device including recording means for recording the requested program on a recording medium and playback means for playing back the program recorded on said recording medium, said program-related information providing method comprising the steps of:

searching for the program information stored in said storage means by said program-related information providing apparatus in response to the program-reserve-record setting request sent from said second terminal device;

generating by said program-related information providing apparatus a first program-reserve-record setting script, which serves as a control command for recording the program in the program table on said recording medium based on the searched program information;

generating by said program-related information providing apparatus a program-related information address display script, which serves as a control command to said second terminal device, including address information indicating an address on said network of program-related information of the program in the program table, and also including display time information specifying a display time of the address information;

generating a second program-reserve-record setting script by said program-related information providing



apparatus by attaching said program-related information address display script to said first program-reserve-record setting script;

transmitting said second program-reserve-record setting script from said program-related information providing apparatus to said second terminal device;

receiving by said second terminal device said second program-reserve-record setting script transmitted from said program-related information providing apparatus;

detecting by said second terminal device said first program-reserve-record-setting script from the received second program-reserve-record setting script;

receiving at a predetermined time by said second terminal device the program specified by the detected first program-reserve-record setting script;

converting the detected first program-reserve-record setting script into a program-reserve-record setting control signal by said second terminal device;

controlling said recording means of said recording/playback device by said second terminal device according to the converted program-reserve-record setting control signal to record on said recording medium the received program and said program-related information address display script of said program attached to the received second program-reserve-record setting script; and

controlling by said second terminal device said playback means of said recording/playback device to play back the program recorded on said recording medium in response to a playback request, and also reading the address information and the display time information from said program-related-information address display script recorded on said recording medium so as to control display means of said second terminal device to display or not to display the read address information based on the display time information.

38. A program-related information providing method according to claim 37, wherein:

said program-related information providing apparatus uses, as the display time information of the program-related information address display script, display start time information specifying a display timing of the address information relative to a program broadcast start time, and display period information specifying a period for which the address information is displayed; and

said second terminal device reads the display start time information and the display period information as the display time information, and controls said display means of said second terminal device to display the read address information based on the display start time information, and

to discontinue displaying the address information based on the display period information.

39. A program-related information providing method according to claim 37, wherein said program-related information providing apparatus comprises billing means for charging a fee to an address information provider which provides the address information to said second terminal device.

40. A program-related information providing method according to claim 39, wherein said program-related information providing apparatus generates the program-related information address display script so that the address information for which a higher fee has been paid is preferentially displayed on said second terminal device according to the fee charged by said billing means.

41. A program-related information providing apparatus which includes storage means for storing program information, which serves as attribute information of a program, and a program table, and which sends the program information and the program table to a terminal device via a network in response to a request from said terminal device, said program-related information providing apparatus comprising:

reception permission means for permitting said terminal device to receive a program in the program table in response to a program viewing request sent from said terminal device;

search means for searching for the program information stored in said storage means at the same time said reception permission means permits said terminal device to receive the program;

program-related information address display script generation means for generating a program-related information address display script including address information which indicates an address on said network of program-related information of the program in the program table and from which the program-related information is accessible, and also including display time information specifying a display time of the address information, said program-related information address display script serving as a control command for displaying the address information on said terminal device; and

script transmission means for transmitting the program-related information address display script generated by said program-related information address display script generation means to said terminal device.

42. A program-related information providing apparatus according to claim 41, wherein said program-related

information address display script generation means uses, as the display time information of the program-related information address display script, broadcast start time information of a broadcast start time of the program requested by said terminal device, display start time information specifying a display timing of the address information relative to the program broadcast start time, and display period information specifying a period for which the displayed address information is displayed.

43. A program-related information providing method for use in a program-related information providing apparatus which includes storage means for storing program information, which serves as attribute information of a program, and a program table, and which sends the program information and the program table to a terminal device via a network in response to a request from said terminal device, said program-related information providing method comprising the steps of:

    permitting said terminal device to receive the program in a program table in response to a program viewing request sent from said terminal device;

    searching for the program information stored in said storage means at the same time said terminal device is permitted to receive the program;

generating a program-related information address display script including address information which indicates an address on said network of program-related information of the program in the program table and from which the program-related information is accessible, and also including display time information specifying a display time of the address information, said program-related information address display script serving as a control command for displaying the address information on said terminal device; and

transmitting the generated program-related information address display script to said terminal device.

44. A program-related information providing method according to claim 43, wherein, as the display time information of the program-related information address display script, broadcast start time information of a broadcast start time of the program requested by said terminal device, display start time information specifying a display timing of the address information relative to the program broadcast start time, and display period information specifying a period for which the displayed address information is displayed are used.

45. A program-related information providing system

comprising a program-related information providing apparatus and a terminal device connected to each other via a network, said program-related information providing apparatus including storage means for storing program information, which serves as attribute information of a program, and a program table, and said program-related information providing apparatus sending the program information and the program table to said terminal device via a network in response to a request from said terminal device, said terminal device making a program viewing request of a program in the program table sent from said program-related information providing apparatus,

said program-related information providing apparatus comprising:

reception permission means for permitting said terminal device to receive the program in the program table in response to the program viewing request sent from said terminal device;

search means for searching for the program information stored in said storage means at the same time said reception permission means permits said terminal device to receive the program;

program-related information address display script generation means for generating a program-related information address display script including address

information which indicates an address on said network of program-related information of the program in the program table and from which the program-related information is accessible, and also including display time information specifying a display time of the address information, said program-related information address display script serving as a control command for displaying the address information on said terminal device; and

script transmission means for transmitting the program-related information address display script generated by said program-related information address display script generation means to said terminal device,

said terminal device comprising:

first receiving means for receiving the program permitted to be received by said reception permission means of said program-related information providing apparatus;

display means for displaying the program received by said first receiving means;

second receiving means for receiving the program-related information address display script transmitted from said script transmission means;

detection means for detecting the address information and the display time information from the program-related information address display script received by said second receiving means; and



control means for controlling said display means to display or not to display the address information based on the display time information detected by said detection means.

46. A program-related information providing system according to claim 45, wherein:

said program-related information address display script generation means of said program-related information providing apparatus uses, as the display time information of the program-related information address display script, broadcast start time information of a broadcast start time of the program requested by said terminal device, display start time information specifying a display timing of the address information on said display means relative to the program broadcast start time, and display period information specifying a period for which the displayed address information is displayed on said display means;

said terminal device comprises computation means for computing an address display start time by adding the display start time to the broadcast start time so as to obtain address display start time information, and for computing an address display end time by adding the display period time to the calculated address display start time so as to obtain address display end time information; and

said control means of said terminal device controls said display means of said terminal device to display the address information based on the address display start time information obtained by said computation means, and to discontinue displaying the address information based on the address display end time information obtained by said computation means.

47. A program-related information providing system according to claim 45, wherein said program-related information providing apparatus comprises billing means for charging a fee to an address information provider which provides the address information to said terminal device.

48. A program-related information providing system according to claim 47, wherein said program-related information address display script generation means of said program-related information providing apparatus generates the program-related information address display script so that the address information for which a higher fee has been paid is preferentially displayed on said display means of said terminal device according to the fee charged by said billing means.

49. A program-related information providing method for

use in a program-related information providing system which comprises a program-related information providing apparatus and a terminal device connected to each other via a network, said program-related information providing apparatus including storage means for storing program information, which serves as attribute information of a program, and a program table, and said program-related information providing apparatus sending the program information and the program table to said terminal device via a network in response to a request from said terminal device, said terminal device making a program viewing request of a program in the program table sent from said program-related information providing apparatus, said program-related information providing method comprising the steps of:

    permitting by said program-related information providing apparatus said terminal device to receive the program in the program table in response to the program viewing request sent from said terminal device;

    receiving by said terminal device the program permitted to be received by said program-related information providing apparatus;

    displaying the received program on display means of said terminal device;

    searching for the program information stored in said storage means by said program-related information providing

apparatus at the same time said terminal device is permitted to receive the program;

generating by said program-related information providing apparatus a program-related information address display script including address information which indicates an address on said network of program-related information of the program in the program table and from which the program-related information is accessible, and also including display time information specifying a display time of the address information, said program-related information address display script serving as a control command for displaying the address information on said terminal device;

transmitting the generated program-related information address display script from said program-related information providing apparatus to said terminal device,

receiving by said terminal device the program-related information address display script transmitted from said program-related information providing apparatus;

detecting the address information and the display time information from the received program-related information address display script by said terminal device; and

controlling said display means of said terminal device to display or not to display the address information based on the detected display time information.

50. A program-related information providing method according to claim 49, wherein:

said program-related information providing apparatus uses, as the display time information of the program-related information address display script, broadcast start time information of a broadcast start time of the program requested by said terminal device, display start time information specifying a display timing of the address information on said display means relative to the program broadcast start time, and display period information specifying a period for which the displayed address information is displayed on said display means;

said terminal device computes an address display start time by adding the display start time to the broadcast start time so as to obtain address display start time information, and computes an address display end time by adding the display period time to the calculated address display start time so as to obtain address display end time information; and

said terminal device controls said display means of said terminal device to display the address information based on the obtained address display start time information, and to discontinue displaying the address information based on the obtained address display end time information.

51. A program-related information providing method according to claim 49, wherein said program-related information providing apparatus charges a fee to an address information provider which provides the address information to said terminal device.

52. A program-related information providing method according to claim 51, wherein said program-related information providing apparatus generates the program-related information address display script so that the address information for which a higher fee has been paid is preferentially displayed on said terminal device according to the fee charged by said billing means.

53. A program-information providing method for providing program information of a television program displayed on a computer terminal, comprising:

a step of generating the program information which includes a broadcast time of the television program and which is used when recording the television program;

a step of preparing program-related information of the television program;

a step of generating a URL address of the program-related information on a network and an address display time at which the URL address is displayed on said computer

terminal; and

a step of transmitting the program information, the URL address, and the address display time to said computer terminal by relating them to each other so that the URL address is displayed on said computer terminal at a time corresponding to the address display time when the television program recorded on said computer terminal at a time specified by a user is played back on said computer terminal in response to a user's request.

54. A program-information providing method for providing program information of a television program displayed on a computer terminal, comprising:

a step of generating the program information which includes a broadcast time of the television program and which is used when recording the television program;

a step of preparing program-related information of the television program;

a step of generating a URL address of the program-related information on a network and an address display time at which the URL address is displayed on said computer terminal; and

a step of transmitting the program information, the URL address, and the address display time by relating them to each other so that the program-related information is

accessible by a user via a network at a time corresponding to the content of the television program and at a time specified by the address display time while the television program is being played back on said computer terminal.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176